

vote determine at the time of its adoption that an amendment is of such a nature that any member which has made such a declaration and which does not accept the amendment within a period of twelve months after the amendment comes into force shall, upon the expiration of this period, cease to be a party to the Convention.

#### Article 53

Any amendment adopted under article 52 shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will immediately forward a copy of the amendment to all members.

#### Article 54

A declaration or acceptance under article 52 shall be made by the communication of an instrument to the Secretary-General for deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General will notify members of the receipt of any such instrument and of the date when the amendment enters into force.

### PART XV

#### INTERPRETATION

#### Article 55

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention shall be referred for settlement to the Assembly, or shall be settled in such other manner as the parties to the dispute agree. Nothing in this article shall preclude the Council or the Maritime Safety Committee from settling any such question or dispute that may arise during the exercise of their functions.

#### Article 56

Any legal question which cannot be settled as provided in article 55 shall be referred by the Organization to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion in accordance with Article 96 of the Charter of the United Nations.

### PART XVI

#### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Article 57. Signature and Acceptance

Subject to the provisions of Part III the present Convention shall remain open for signature or acceptance and States may become parties to the Convention by:

- (a) Signature without reservation as to acceptance;
- (b) Signature subject to acceptance followed by acceptance; or
- (c) Acceptance.

Acceptance shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### Article 58. Territories

(a) Members may make a declaration at any time that their participation in the Convention includes all or a group or a single one of the Territories for whose international relations they are responsible.